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SPORTS

The defending national champs, Texas sits in third place after the first round of the Amer Ari Invitational. **PAGE 9**

Softball opens up season against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the first round of the Texas Classic. **PAGE 9**

LIFE&ARTS

Science Scene explores the likelihood of alien life on other planets. Why haven’t they called us yet? **PAGE 12**

UT poetry group readies to ‘slam’ the competition in New York this spring. **PAGE 12**

TODAY

Free Krav Maga self-defense class University Krav Maga hosts a free seminar to newcomers and veterans alike. Krav Maga is a battle-proven self-defense and combative system used by military, police and special forces across the world, and is a great workout as well. Wear athletic clothes; neighboring locker room available for changing. The event is free for students and will be held 4:15-5:30 p.m. in Bellmont Hall 904.

Magicians & Charlatans The Harry Ransom Center hosts Jed Perl, art critic for The New Republic, for a discussion about the state-of-the-art world and the future of fine publishing with Peter Kayafas, director of the Eakins Press Foundation. A book signing follows. Seating is limited. Line forms upon arrival of the first patron, and doors open 30 minutes in advance. This event is free and open to the public and will be held from 7-8 p.m. in the Prothro Theater.

The Trishas The Trishas present their Bundle Up the Babies Winter Tour at the Cactus Cafe, with special guest Courtney Patton. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The show will start at 8 p.m.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1964 The Beatles first arrived in the United States.



Longhorns shoot poorly from the floor in big loss.

SPORTS
PAGE 8



Improv troupe stresses audience involvement.

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UNIVERSITY

University launches new incentive program

By Jordan Rudner

As part of an ongoing initiative to significantly increase four-year graduation rates, UT will commit \$5 million to new financial aid programs, including one which provides loan forgiveness or stipends to students who undergo academic preparation programs or leadership training.

The \$5 million will be divided among four programs, including the Freshmen On-track Program, which will reward roughly 900 freshmen who achieve a set minimum GPA with one-time \$1,000 scholarships, and the Summer Bridging Program, which will support new students in part by replacing lost summer Pell Grant scholarships. Half of the funding will

be allocated to the Job Success Program, the largest of the four initiatives. The program will provide roughly 500 eligible students the chance to earn up to \$20,000 over four years if they spend a certain number of hours each week fulfilling an assigned activity like on-campus service or specific leadership training. Students’ eligibility for the various aid programs

will hinge on financial need and factors like the likelihood that work or take out loans will be required alongside financial aid in order to attend UT. For the On-track Program, the roughly 900 participants selected will be students admitted to a freshman success program reserved for those with “significant adversity indicators.” UT spokeswoman Tara

Doolittle said examples of such factors include coming from a low-income background or being a first-generation college student.

David Laude, senior vice provost for enrollment and graduation management, said the job success program will operate somewhat like a work-study program.

“This isn’t that much

RATES continues on page 2

FOOTBALL

HORNS HOOK 15



Pearce Murphy | Daily Texan Staff

Texas head coach Mack Brown briefed the media Wednesday afternoon at his national signing day press conference. Brown and the Longhorns welcomed 15 recruits but missed on several high-profile players.

Meet the newest Longhorns on page 7

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ARMADILLO wins UT team first place

By Lexie Dubinsky

For the second time since 2005, UT’s Satellite Design Lab won first place in the national University Nanosatellite Program competition, held in Albuquerque, N.M., at the Air Force Research Laboratories. For two years, more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students helped to construct ARMADILLO, a small satellite that was chosen above 9 other competing universities.

Sponsored by the U.S. Air Force, the National Nanosatellite Competition funds selected universities with a research grant. The winning satellite is awarded a two-year grant of \$55,000 along with the promise to launch

their satellite into space. ARMADILLO stands for Atmosphere Related Measurements and Detection of SubmILLimeter Objects. Engineering professor Glenn Lightsey, who runs the Satellite Design Lab, said that ARMADILLO is a game-changing technology for the aerospace industry. “It will be taking some new measurements of space debris that have never been made before, and we hope to gain more understanding of how much debris there is in space and how it interacts with the atmosphere,” Lightsey said. According to Lightsey, the small size of ARMADILLO represents another groundbreaking change in aerospace engineering.

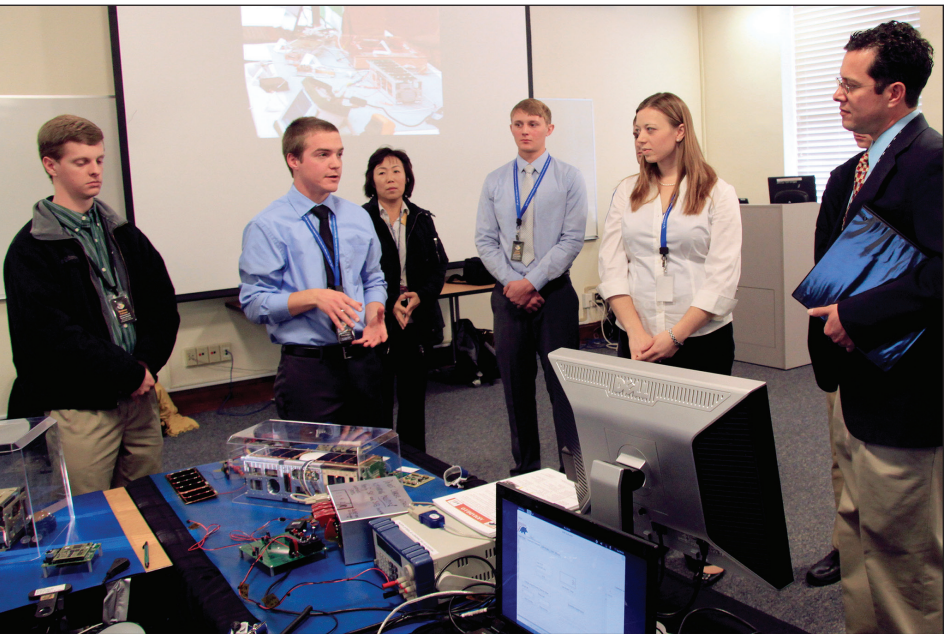


Photo courtesy of UT Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics

More than 50 undergraduate and graduate students helped to construct ARMADILLO, a small satellite that won first place in the national University Nanosatellite Program competition.

“The fact that it is so small is powerful because it can be launched into space much more easily and at much lower cost than a bigger satellite,” Lightsey said. “This

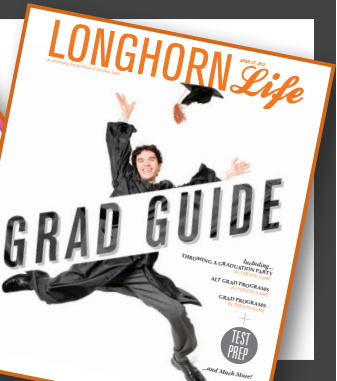
technology provides more affordable access to space, which means more projects can be done in space at lower cost than ever before.” Aerospace engineering

graduate student Katharine Brumbaugh, the student project manager for ARMADILLO, said in

NANO continues on page 2

LONGHORN Life ...

Find the latest news on the lives of longhorns in a special edition to the Daily Texan. **February 8th**



FRAMES | FEATURED PHOTO



Gabriella Belzer | Daily Texan Staff

A fine arts student sketches a Greek bust during her Drawing 1 class at The Blanton Museum on Wednesday afternoon.

DT
THE DAILY TEXAN

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High **74** Low **52**

We've got an M&M guy.

RATES

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different than a student working off-campus or student work-study," Laude said, "but in this particular case, participants [are] getting paid to make the right decisions about their academic behaviors."

Laude said he anticipates that one of the greatest challenges he will face regarding the program will be spreading awareness about aid availability.

"Students who financially supported themselves during high school didn't go to their principals looking for jobs, so it might not occur to them to turn to on-campus resources now," Laude said.

The programs will be funded by one-time university discretionary financial aid, and if it is considered a success, the University will look to other sources of discretionary scholarship

money to continue offering similar incentives.

Journalism sophomore Karina Ramos, who works 15 hours a week as a cashier at Jester City Limits, said fulfilling her work-study obligations puts major constraints on her ability to study. "I go to class, but then I come straight here, and I don't get out until 10 at night," Ramos said. "It gets bad. It gets stressful."

Ramos said she would easily value a program focused on leadership or academics over her current job.

"I've learned a lot about customer services here, but [the Job Success Program] would definitely be more beneficial to me and to my education," she said.

Management information systems sophomore April Stange, who works 10 hours each week for the economics department, said one potential drawback of the Job Success Program is that the experience would not help build a participant's resume like a more traditional work-study does.

"If anything, my work-study has given me a little bit of an advantage — I think it looks great on a resume," Stange said.

Still, given the choice, Stange said she would prefer to participate in leadership training or academic preparation programs.

"My program is called a work-study, but no one ever really gets to study," Strange said. "I just work."

Texas Student Media
Board of Operating
Trustees Meeting

Friday, February 8, 2013

Board of Operating
Trustees Meeting
12:00 p.m.William Randolph
Hearst Building
Room #3.302
2500 Whitis Avenue

Visitors Welcome

We encourage any community member who has any kind of temporary or permanent disability to contact Texas Student Media beforehand so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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Longhorn Life



CPRIT

continues from page 1

office and the Travis County District Attorney's office for how it approved and distributed grants. As a result, the Texas Legislative Budget Board recommended cutting all state funds to CPRIT for the 2014-15 biennium.

On Wednesday, the Texas House Appropriations Committee questioned CPRIT officials how a grant initially intended for MD Anderson went to the Statewide Clinical Trials Network of Texas, or CTNeT, a nonprofit clinical network that ceased operations last week. CTNeT closed its doors after auditors found that the network used \$1.3 million in grant money for non-research purposes such as purchasing furniture, granting salary increases and bonuses and reimbursing travel expenses. At the time, the network had received about \$8 million of the grant.

CPRIT awarded MD Anderson a grant in June 2010 to create a statewide network of universities conducting cancer research,

but then transferred it to CTNeT, which formed in August 2010.

"It's more [about] the idea of bringing together all of these entities," said Kristen Doyle, general counsel to CPRIT.

Wesley Harrott, executive director of research administration at MD Anderson, said MD Anderson prepared the initial application for the grant but was not informed on why CPRIT transferred it to the nonprofit. While MD Anderson did not help start CTNeT, it supplied some matching funds to the nonprofit, which the Texas Constitution requires of institutions applying for grants.

Harrott said the university did not ask why the grant had been transferred because the university did not intend to be the sole recipient of the grant, which was designed to be distributed amongst institutions participating in the research network.

"We certainly thought that CTNeT was an important idea for the state," he

said. "Getting clinical trials available to everyone in the state is something that MD Anderson thinks is a very worthwhile effort."

State Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie and committee chairman, said he did not understand why MD Anderson did not ask CPRIT why the grant was transferred.

"So, if I get a grant for \$25 million and they don't give it to me, they give it to [Vice Chairman Sylvester Turner, D-Houston], are you all going to ask where the \$25 million grant was? I'd sure find out where it went," Pitts said.

State Rep. Helen Giddings, D-DeSoto, said she does not understand how one institution applied for and was awarded a grant that another organization received.

"If you come back and tell me that the applicant was CTNeT, I'm good. If you come back and tell me that the applicant was MD Anderson, then we need to continue the conversation," Giddings said.

NANO

continues from page 1

addition to the advancement that ARMADILLO has on space research, hands-on projects improve the student experience.

"Many times we think we know the material, but then real-life complications set in and you have to find a new solution," Brumbaugh said. "Working on ARMADILLO and in the Satellite Design Lab allows students to learn how to deal with these situations on

tangible products."

While ARMADILLO is expected to launch within the next year, Brumbaugh said she looks ahead to reaping more benefits due to winning the competition.

"Winning ARMADILLO is validation that all that work was worth the effort, and proves to our contemporaries that the UT-Austin Satellite Design Lab is not just a student organization,

but that we're accomplishing real things and providing useful and meaningful data and technology to customers like NASA and the Department of Defense," Brumbaugh said.

The team's previous winning entry, FASTRAC, which consists of a pair of nanosatellites, was launched in 2010. Currently, the lab is studying how the two satellites interact in space.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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2/6/13

Texan Ad
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NEWS BRIEFLY

Boy Scouts decision on gay admits delayed

IRVING— Caught in an ideological crossfire, the Boy Scouts of America is delaying until May a vote on whether to ease its policy of excluding gays as Scouts and adult leaders. Any eventual decision is likely to anger major constituencies and worsen schisms within Scouting.

The delay, which the Scouts attributed to “the complexity of this issue,” was announced Wednesday after closed-door deliberations by the BSA’s national executive board. Under consideration was a proposal to ease the longstanding ban on gays by allowing sponsors of local troops to decide for themselves on gay membership.

As the board met over three days at a hotel near Dallas, it became clear that the proposal would be unacceptable to large numbers of impassioned Scouting families and advocacy groups on both the left and right.

Congo, M23 rebels act toward peace

KAMPALA, Uganda — Representatives of the Congolese government and the M23 rebels signed a preliminary agreement in which both parties accepted responsibility for the failure of an earlier peace deal, a Ugandan mediator said Wednesday, praising both parties as highly committed to the peace talks.

Crispus Kiyonga, the Ugandan minister who is mediating the talks, told reporters that the agreement Wednesday was a breakthrough reached “in the spirit of reconciliation.”

Kiyonga said each camp was aware of its contribution to the failure of the March 23, 2009 agreement between the Congolese government and a now-defunct group known as CNDP, a precursor to M23.

Two of Great Lakes record lowest levels

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Two of the Great Lakes have hit their lowest water levels ever recorded, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday, capping more than a decade of below-normal rain and snowfall and higher temperatures that boost evaporation.

Measurements taken last month show Lake Huron and Lake Michigan have reached their lowest ebb since record keeping began in 1918, and the lakes could set additional records over the next few months, the corps said. The lakes were 29 inches below their long-term average and had declined 17 inches since January 2012.

The other Great Lakes — Superior, Erie and Ontario — were also well below average.

Cities fight over bones of King Richard III

LONDON — The discovery of King Richard III under a parking lot in the English city of Leicester thrilled history buffs around the world. But the news meant a winter of discontent for the rival city of York, and now the two are doing battle over the royal bones.

Officials in Leicester say the monarch, who was unceremoniously buried without a coffin 528 years ago, will be re-interred with kingly dignity in the city’s cathedral.

However, York City Council said Wednesday it is petitioning the government and Queen Elizabeth II, arguing that “one of the city’s most famous and cherished sons” — who grew up in the region and was once known as Richard of York — should be buried in the northern city.

—Compiled from Associated Press reports



Sam Burrell | Associated Press

This April 2, 2012 photo released by the British Antarctic Survey shows the Halley VI Research Station on the edge of the South Atlantic Ocean. Researchers say that Britain’s new Antarctic base will be movable and capable of sliding across the ice on ski-clad stilts.

Icy base slides on surface of Antarctica

By Raphael Satter

Associated Press

LONDON — British researchers have unveiled a futuristic Antarctic research base that can move, sliding across the frozen surface to beat the shifting ice and pounding snow that doomed its predecessors.

The British Antarctic Survey said Wednesday that the

Halley VI Research Station is the sixth facility to occupy the site on the Brunt Ice Shelf — a floating sheet of ice about 10 miles from the edge of the South Atlantic.

Most of the previous stations were crushed under the weight of the polar snow, while Halley V had to be abandoned due to fears that the station would be lost if the ice sheet split apart, survey spokesman Paul Sea-

grove said. He said this fate “illustrates the problem of constructing research stations on moving ice.”

Halley VI, designed by London-based Hugh Broughton Architects, looks like something out of a “Star Wars” movie. The station is composed of a series of four-legged modules linked by enclosed walkways. Triple-glazed windows help trap heat, a vacuum drainage system keeps water

consumption down, and the ski-clad stilts keep the units about 13 feet above the level of the ice. If the station needs to be moved, the modules are disconnected and then towed to a new location.

The station was built over four years because engineers could only work for a nine-week period during the Antarctic summer. The total cost of the station was nearly \$40 million.

Halley has served as a scientific research site for more than 50 years. The British Antarctic Survey said the region has served as “an important natural laboratory” for studies of the Earth’s magnetic field, its near-space atmosphere, and climate change.

It was data from Halley that led to the survey’s 1985 discovery of the hole in the ozone layer.



Egyptian and Syrian protesters protest against Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, during his visit to Egypt for the 12th summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Cairo on Wednesday.

Khalil Hamra
Associated Press

Heavy clashes frighten Syrians

By Ben Hubbard

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels and regime forces fought their most intense clashes in weeks inside the heavily guarded capital of Damascus on Wednesday, activists said, with the sounds of shell blasts echoing through the downtown area and keeping many children home from school while residents hid in their houses.

The opposition fighters blasted army checkpoints with rifles and anti-aircraft guns while government forces shelled the eastern and southern suburbs, trying to repel a new insurgent effort to push the civil war into the heart of the capital, the anti-regime activists said.

Although bordered by rebellious suburbs that have seen fierce fighting, widespread clashes have remained mostly on the capital’s edges, saving it from the destruction that has ravaged other major cities such as Aleppo and Homs.

The military of President Bashar has focused on securing the capital, and the dozens of rebels groups that have established footholds in Damascus suburbs have failed to form a united front, each fighting for its own area with little or no coordination with others.

Much of Wednesday’s fighting was sparked by a push by a number of rebel groups in the northwestern neighborhood of Jobar, which is bisected by the Damascus ring road. Rebels,

who control the area east of the road, launched attacks on army checkpoints in the regime-controlled western part to try to seize the road, one of the capital’s most important thoroughfares.

They dubbed the operation “The Battle of Armageddon.” It did not appear to be coordinated with rebel groups elsewhere in the city.

Videos posted online showed dozens of rebels collecting in the area with rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers as well as rebel attacks on army checkpoints with heavy-caliber machine guns mounted on pickup trucks. Intense gunfire was heard in the background of another video, while local mosques repeatedly broadcast “God is great” as a battle cry.

Palestinian prisoners sneak sperm to wives

By Mohammed Daraghmeh

Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — A Palestinian fertility doctor claimed Wednesday that he has used prisoners’ sperm smuggled out of Israeli jails to help their wives have babies, and that five women have become pregnant so far.

Despite unlikely odds and difficult conditions, a fertility expert said the claims could be plausible.

There are about 4,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails, serving sentences for offenses ranging from stone throwing to killing Israeli civilians.

Most women seeking to become pregnant have husbands who were convicted of taking part in deadly militant attacks and are serving lengthy sentences. These prisoners are barred from having conjugal visits.

“We women are growing old, and our chances of having babies in the future is diminishing,” said Rimah Silawi, 38, who said she is one month pregnant after undergoing IVF treatments that used her imprisoned husband’s sperm. Her husband, Osama, is serving multiple life sentences for killing an Israeli and three

Palestinians said to be collaborators with the Israeli military in the West Bank town of Jenin 22 years ago.

Dr. Salim Abu Khaizaran of the Razan Center for IVF in the West Bank city of Nablus said he has gathered 40 samples, and that 22 prisoners’ wives have undergone IVF treatment. Five have been successful, including one woman who delivered her baby earlier this year. He said the success rate was low because of the difficulty in transporting the samples successfully. The Western rate of IVF success is about 25 percent in ideal hospital conditions.

Abu Khaizaran said he gives the service for free in solidarity with the prisoners.

“The wives of prisoners are suffering. They feel they are lonely because their husbands are behind bars, some for the rest of their lives, and they are eager to have babies that can make a difference in their lives,” Abu Khaizaran said.

Relatives refused to say how the sperm is smuggled out, fearing the information would help Israeli authorities to prevent further attempts. They said the samples were usually carried out in eye droppers.

Fans use Facebook to add second set of paws to Monopoly

By Rodrique Ngowi

Associated Press

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — The Scottie dog has a new nemesis in Monopoly after fans voted in an online contest to add a cat token to the property trading game, replacing the iron, toy maker Hasbro Inc. announced Wednesday.

The results were announced after the shoe, wheelbarrow and iron were neck and neck for elimination in the final hours of

voting that sparked passionate efforts by fans to save their favorite tokens, and by businesses eager to capitalize on the publicity.

The Facebook vote closed just before midnight Tuesday, marking the first time that fans have had a say on which of the eight tokens to add and which one to toss. The pieces identify the players and have changed quite a lot since Parker Brothers bought the game from its original designer in 1935.

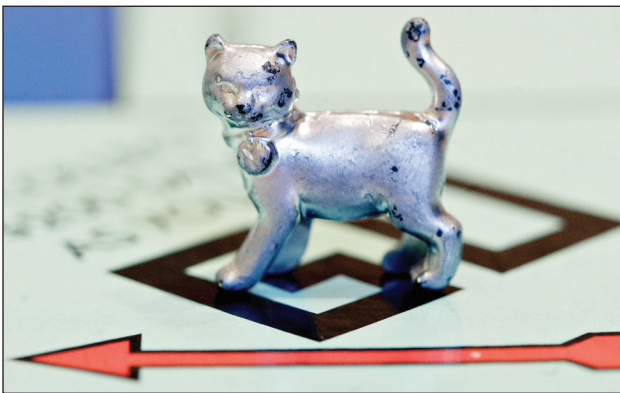
Rhode Island-based Hasbro announced the new

piece Wednesday morning.

The cat beat out the robot, diamond ring, helicopter and guitar, getting 31 percent of votes for new tokens.

“I think there were a lot of cat lovers in the world that reached out and voted,” said Jonathan Berkowitz, vice president for Hasbro gaming marketing.

The Scottie Dog was the most popular of the classic tokens, and received 29 percent of the vote, the company said. The iron got the fewest votes and was kicked to the curb.



Steven Senne | Associated Press

The newest Monopoly token, a cat, rests on the game board at Hasbro Inc. headquarters, in Pawtucket, R.I. on Tuesday. Voting on Facebook determined that the cat would replace the iron token.

VIEWPOINT

Let Powers speak... just not on grad rates

Ungag President Powers

UT President William Powers Jr. is “under a gag order of sorts when it comes to speaking publicly about the issue of inappropriate relationships between university employees and students,” the Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday. According to the newspaper, the UT System Board of Regents has “asked Powers to refer questions relating to a football coach and former track and field coach to the [Board of Regents].”

The football coach is Major Applewhite and the former track and field coach is Bev Kearney. Both were recently revealed to have had consensual relationships with adult students (in Kearney’s case, a student-athlete). When The Daily Texan revealed Applewhite’s affair last week through an open records request, it was the first time the Regents had heard about it. The Regents called

an emergency meeting, the result of which was a statement from Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa and Gene Powell announcing a review of UT policies on inappropriate relationships.

A spokesman for the UT System said in an email to the Statesman, “UT-Austin can certainly respond to any UT-Austin-centric questions as they deem appropriate. Questions about policies and procedures and the review to be led by Vice Chairman Foster are to be referred to UT System.” But Patti Ohlendorf, UT-Austin vice president for legal affairs, told the Statesman, “The UT System legal office and UT-Austin legal office agreed we weren’t going to be making any more public statements about the cases at this time.”

We say let Powers talk. We want to hear what he has to say.

Beyond four-year grads

Yesterday, UT announced four new financial aid pilot programs, worth \$5 million total, notable because the resulting handouts will be tethered to a student’s ability to graduate in four years. In the past year, the UT administration spent much energy encouraging students not to overstay their welcome in an effort to raise UT’s 2011 four-year graduation rate from 51 percent to 70 percent by 2016. This financial aid pilot program is the latest enthusiastic effort from the Tower to advance the four-year graduation rate cause.

We acknowledge that it is less costly to graduate in four years than five, but we remain unconvinced that four is a magic number or that raising four-year graduation rates is truly in the interest of individual students’ educations and deserving of so much of the Tower’s time and promotional efforts.

One of the new pilot programs offers a \$1,000 one-time scholarship if students complete at

least 30 hours of course work, maintain a certain grade point average and complete leadership training in their freshman year.

“Anytime you can use something like financial aid to prompt students to stop and think differently about how they respond in college, you have no choice but to do so,” said David Laude, a chemistry professor and UT’s vice provost for enrollment graduation management (aka the “four-year graduation rates czar”). Using financial aid as a carrot, UT administration hopes to encourage students to graduate more quickly. There’s not much more to it than that.

We long for the days when Laude’s intellectual energies were devoted to doling out unsolicited life lessons, not raising grad rates. One former student remembers when one day, mid-equation, Laude turned to the class and announced, “If you have a friend who’s fragile, abandon them. They’ll figure it out on their own.”

GALLERY



Illustration by Lauren Moore | Daily Texan Staff

Don’t make cops waste their time with weed

By Natalie San Luis

Daily Texan Columnist

When Austin police chief Art Acevedo visited The Dudley & Bob Morning Show on KLBJ in December, it seemed like an ordinary PR appearance — that is, until the last few minutes of the interview.

After the show hosts made a couple of jokes about marijuana use, Art Acevedo interrupted to say, “You know, what you do in your home and the privacy of your home is great. We could care less, as long as you’re not selling the stuff and growing it for everybody else.” He quickly added, “Just don’t drive. Don’t drive, that’s all I ask.”

The discussion about marijuana that followed was brief but full of other surprising comments: Acevedo admitted that he hoped to smoke weed before he died, then made a few digs at the Williamson County’s police department, which is known for its aggressive drug enforcement practices. “What a price to pay to get a little bit of dope,” the police chief said, “to be doing body cavity searches every time you stop somebody for a misdemeanor.”

The nonchalant comments came soon after Washington and Colorado became the first states to legalize recreational marijuana use and, closer to home, Texas state Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, filed HB 184. The bill seeks to make possession of marijuana, one ounce or less, a class C misdemeanor, the equivalent of a traffic ticket, rather than a class B misdemeanor, the equivalent of a DWI. Two months later in early January, Texas state Rep. Elliott Naishtat (a Democrat who represents many students living near UT’s campus) and Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, filed HB 594, a bill to allow doctors to legally recommend marijuana as a medical treatment and to legalize marijuana possession by those patients. Although the purchase and distribution of the drug would still be illegal, the bill would allow individuals suffering from Parkinson’s disease, cancer or MS to avoid jail time for eating pot brownies at their physician’s suggestion.

Revisions to both state and federal drug laws are long overdue: Prisons are overflowing with nonviolent offenders, more police departments are refusing to make possession arrests and

almost half of the United States have legalized or decriminalized clinical use of marijuana. Harsh penalties for smoking weed put otherwise employable Texas citizens in expensive prisons for victimless, nonviolent crimes. The effects of jail time are far-reaching: Former inmates have a harder time finding well-paying jobs after a drug charge, which translates into more families in poverty and relying on social services.

The conversation on drug policies is changing. HB 184 and HB 594 offer Texas the a chance to be a part of that change, but the opportunity for bipartisan collaboration on reforming dated, expensive policies could easily be wasted. Both Rep. Dutton and Rep. Naishtat have introduced similar bills in prior legislative sessions, but if history bears out, neither HB 184 nor HB 594 will make it out of committee.

Although Gov. Rick Perry supports states’ rights to determine the legality of marijuana, he ignores Texas citizens’ demands to fix a broken system. The 2011 Texas Lyceum Poll — administered before Washington’s and Colorado’s drug laws passed — revealed that one-third of Texas voters supported legalizing marijuana, a measure far more controversial than decriminalization. If we can’t have immediate reform, we at least deserve a serious, well-informed discussion on the social, economic and psychological consequences of criminalizing a plant.

Buckley Rue, president of the UT chapter of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, helps organize students to fight against restrictive laws on controlled substances. The religious studies senior said, “I think [the bills] are a powerful steps in the right direction. The bills don’t even need to get passed. Persistence is what’s going to win in the end.”

Persistence worked for Washington and Colorado, and hopefully persistence will work for decriminalization here. Until then, federal, state and local governments will continue to pour billions of dollars annually into a war against our own citizens that cannot be won. I hope our legislators will realize, as our police chief does, what Texas law sacrifices in the name of a little bit of dope.

San Luis is a Plan II, Women’s and Gender Studies and English senior from Buda.

New and improved work-study

David Laude

Guest Columnist

All too often when I sit down with a student who is struggling in my class, the issue comes down to not studying enough. In digging a little deeper, I find it’s often because the student has a job while going to school full time.

About half of UT students work while going to school, according to a 2011 student experience survey. Among those students, the type of work is split about evenly between on- and off-campus jobs. Look more closely at the data and you’ll find that freshmen are more likely to work off campus, as are underrepresented minority students.

While none of this is surprising to me, it certainly poses challenge in my efforts to manage four-year graduation rates. Students who fail courses in their freshman year have a harder time graduating within four years, and if, in some cases, the root reason is an economic one, then it’s time to get creative.

As part of my plan, the University will allocate about \$5 million in one-time discretionary financial aid money toward creating pilot programs for several hundred students in the 2013-14 class who are

likely to work off campus or take out loans to pay for college. The programs will incentivize behaviors that are consistent with student success, and in particular, the likelihood of graduating in four years.

For example, students might earn a scholarship during their sophomore year that is tied to completing 30 hours of coursework and being on time to graduate after their first year. Another example is paying these students to participate in experiential learning opportunities, such as working in on-campus research labs or internships.

But of all of our new financial aid initiatives, I am most excited about the work program that is being developed with the Office of Student Financial Services and several of the University’s academic success programs. The work program will be tied to a student’s personal, academic and professional growth — financially rewarding students for turning into something special as they graduate.

The student who, as a freshman, was working 20 hours a week off campus is now, under the new program, being paid for 20 hours of participation each week in academic communities and leadership programs. By the student’s sophomore year, he or she is a paid peer mentor or tutor and, by his or her junior or senior year, being paid to perform research, apply a skill developed to make campus

better or exercise leadership training as a resident assistant or in Student Government.

I am particularly interested in the creation of a financial aid structure where everybody wins — students see their financial burden reduced while becoming deeply integrated into the academic and professional fabric of campus; the University produces exceptional graduates who bleed burnt orange; and I have far fewer students in my office talking about why they don’t have time to study for my class.

I believe my job of improving graduation rates is going to succeed with bite-sized initiatives that are real and positive to the individual student. And if things go as expected, my goal to increase the University’s four-year graduation rate to 70 percent by 2016 is a little more likely.

This redefinition of financial aid to influence post-matriculation behavior is such an example. Done well, it will have students waking up in four years realizing that graduation came easily and appropriately to personal and professional goals, and, in this case, with a lot less debt.

Dr. David Laude is the senior vice provost for enrollment and graduation management and a professor of chemistry.

UNIVERSITY



Samuel Gosling, a professor in the Department of Psychology gives a presentation on the world of synchronous massive online classes during the Course Transformation Program Showcase in Avaya Auditorium Wednesday afternoon.

Faculty plans to increase course quality

By Matt Hart

Large introductory courses at the University of Texas may better equip students with skills applicable to their major as faculty continue to review and refine required courses. At a talk Wednesday, faculty presented progress of the Course Transformation Program, a plan to profoundly transform large gateway courses at the University. Gretchen Ritter, vice provost for undergraduate education and faculty governance and government professor, said the program is designed to allow students to focus on conceptual understanding and help them to apply their knowledge to real life situations. Lecturers and professors from the School of Biological

Sciences, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and several other schools which participated in the program in its first cycle last semester addressed course redesign procedures and the challenges of continuing to improve gateway courses. The program has restructured gateway courses to engage students through technology in multiple departments. "It is about experimenting with synchronous online course programs that gives students daily, personally-tailored quizzes," Ritter said. "It allows them to check with each other virtually from any location on or off campus." English associate professor Coleman Hutchison said within each variant of the Masterworks of Literature courses at UT, faculty have

discretion on the curriculum and do not teach out of a standard set of textbooks. "The challenge is that we have a very heterogeneous audience, and they come with varying levels of preparation," Coleman said. Economics lecturer Beatrice Paal said instructors need to get students from thinking like high school students to thinking like economists. "Some students take [macroeconomics] in four weeks in high school, and that counts as the same credit and this is a huge concern to us," Paal said. "We are using the universal TUCE [Test of Understanding of College Economics] test to evaluate our students at the beginning of the course and we are checking their progress throughout the semester." Daily course planning is

also undergoing assessment. "Implicitly we continue to adopt backward design principles when designing our units," Paal said. "Integrating more interactive activities in the large lectures necessitates being more explicit about the unit design goals." The intent of the program is to develop new resources in introductory courses and to improve academic success. "In the evaluations programs, what we have learned so far is that students are learning more based on concept tests and are doing better academically," Ridder said. "And one very exciting finding we've seen is that when students take more than one course transformation course, they seem to be doing better not just in that class, but in their other courses as well."

CAMPUS

Skype-equipped PCL room aids with job interviews

By Zach Lozano

The Perry-Castaneda Library opened an interview room this semester on the first floor of the library, where students can hold interviews with potential employers via Skype. On a loan from Information Technology Services, the technology available in the room is there to give students a greater advantage over other students in the job search and provide convenience for interviews that require video technology. "Hopefully this location will be more convenient than other options for access to HD video equipment, if access to such equipment is a requirement for an interview, and they will be able to interact with prospective employers more easily," said Jenifer Flaxbart, head librarian of reference and information services for the PCL. Flaxbart said the new room will provide a campus-based option to interview locally for what could be a local, national or international job opportunity. "Interview tips and guidelines are included with the instructions for the equipment, and the room provides students with a professional-looking setting from which to interview," Flaxbart said. The technology is on loan from ITS this semester, but Flaxbart hopes to offer long-term support for the system through efforts by University of Texas Libraries and ITS. "I certainly wish technology like this was available to me during my undergraduate years," said Reymundo Ramos, director of academic advising and career counseling with the Longhorn

I would definitely use it because I myself get nervous in job interviews and it would be in a much more comfortable setting.

— Erin Duncan, Undeclared freshman

Center for Academic Excellence. "With the job market still tight, this could certainly help students save in travel expenses while possibly expanding the number of interviews they can have." While there are many resources for career assistance on campus, this is the first available to students that is directly a part of the interview process rather than just offering preparation or guidance. "If used properly, it should serve our students well," Ramos said. Undeclared freshman Erin Duncan said she greatly appreciates this new resource provided to students. Duncan said she thinks young college students often go into job interviews feeling nervous and unsure of themselves, despite possessing all of the traits that make them viable candidates for any position. "I definitely think it's a valuable addition to campus, because job interviews are intimidating and if students are in their own element they will perform better in the interview," Duncan said. "I would definitely use it because I myself get nervous in job interviews and it would be in a much more comfortable setting." The room can be reserved through Library Copier Services or by phone at 512-495-4239.

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FOOTBALL

SIGNING DAY

Texas may have officially closed out another recruiting cycle yesterday, but the story isn't over for the class of 2013. Here's a quick look at Mack Brown's group of 15.

STRONGEST POSITION
OFFENSIVE LINE

"We got some speed that we needed, but the highlight is the offensive line," coach Mack Brown said at Wednesday's signing day press conference. Rami Hammad, Kent Perkins, Darius James, Jake Raulerson and Desmond Harrison comprise one of the best offensive line classes in the country. Though they may not all see the field immediately, the 2013 linemen are sure to have left their mark on Texas by the time they're through.

BIGGEST NEED LEFT UNFILLED
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

What was formerly a strength of the class turned into a glaring deficiency once A'Shawn Robinson decommitted. Texas simply did not have enough time to replace Robinson and Waco defensive tackle Andrew Billings poured salt in the wound by picking Baylor on Tuesday. Although Brown claimed Wednesday that defensive tackle "wasn't a position of need," it still hurts to miss out on such highly-touted prospects.

MOST LIKELY TO PLAY EARLY
JAKE OLIVER
(WIDE RECEIVER, DALLAS JESUIT)

Besides junior college recruits Geoff Swaim and Desmond Harrison (who will assuredly play right away), wide receiver Jake Oliver, who caught a state-record 308 balls in high school for 4,567 yards receiving and 56 touchdowns, has the best chance of any incoming freshman to see the field immediately.

MOST LIKELY TO REDSHIRT
TYRONE SWOOPEES
(QUARTERBACK, WHITEWRIGHT)

Swoopes is a lock to sit out the 2013 season. The Whitewright product needs to become a more polished passer, and with five quarterbacks on the roster, Texas can afford to give him a year just to learn. Swoopes' only chance to play this year is an injury epidemic or in a gadget package, neither of which are likely. Swoopes should come into the 2014 season ready to compete for the backup job.

OVERALL CLASS GRADE: B

When considering the 2013 recruiting cycle in totality, there's plenty to like, quality-wise. However, one can't help but wonder what could have been. Five decommitments hurt, but so does losing recruiting battles to Baylor and Texas A&M. "It's really important that the guys who commit to us stay committed to us," Brown said. In large part, they did. But because of those who

didn't, Brown's program is at a crossroads. Texas has already jumped out to a historic start for 2014, with seven current high school juniors on board. If on-field success can yield success on the recruiting trail, the Longhorns should have no problem adding to that tally. If not, underwhelming years like 2013 will start to become the rule, and not the exception.

—Michael Marks

Brown optimistic about class, insists Texas has what it needs

By Rachel Thompson

Wednesday, national signing day, was a day high school football players and coaching staffs alike circled on their calendars, the end to the madness that is open recruiting season. When the dust finally settled — sans another decommit — the Longhorns had inked 15 for their class of 2013.

"The fifteen we got are very passionate about being at Texas," head coach Mack Brown said at his Wednesday press conference. "And that's what you want. You want people who want to be at your school, and then when somebody decides to back out on you, you've got to go look for somebody else."

Among them is a defensive back, Bastrop's Antwuan Davis, who Brown called "one of the fastest in the country," a trio of wideouts and perhaps a Vince Young doppelganger in Tyrone Swoopes. But for all the flash, it's the big-uglies up front who have Brown most excited.

"The highlight of this class is the offensive line," he said. "They average over 6-foot-5 feet tall and 300 pounds and they can all move their feet."

With a hectic few weeks that included the decommitment of star defensive tackle A'Shawn Robinson and fellow defensive tackle Andrew Billings's decision to go to Baylor, Brown said he's still pleased with the batch he's got at the end of this year's recruiting process.


"We've had some top-ranked signing classes before that didn't pan out," Brown said. "We looked at a few that didn't want to come, but if you look at that it's happening across the country. Worry about the ones you get, because you've got them for five years, 365 days a year."

With coaches recruiting earlier and earlier to attain top talent, Brown said he's focused on building relationships with high school coaches and finding players genuinely interested in bringing their talent to Texas.

"I think it's very important for me to have presence in high schools, so I like to go to the schools and see the coach," he said. "I need to go see those guys and shake their hands and tell them we're not backing out on kids."

Those new talents will join a roster of returning 19 starters and other veteran players who are eager to extend their leadership to the newest members of the team.

"The strength of this team are the



ANTWUAN DAVIS DB
Bastrop HS | Bastrop, TX

He is one of the fastest young men in the country ... he's powerful, strong ... he could have gone anywhere in America.

—Head coach Mack Brown

sophomores and the juniors," Brown said. "I'm seeing more leadership than I have the last two years."

He was also quick to point out that there will be ample opportunities for young players to showcase their talents early on.

"All of our jobs are always open," he said. "We're going to play all the best players. They're really getting after each other. There's more accountability now."

A core focus is returning to a sharp offense that illuminate the scoreboard in the fall, Brown said.

"Right now in the Big 12, it's a speed game," Brown said. "We've got to get back to the upper 40 and 50 points offensively, and to do that in this league, you've got to have great speed."

Despite the hullabaloo that commonly surrounds signing day, Brown cited history as a reminder that what's to come is much more significant.

"Marquise [Goodwin] wasn't talked about on this day, [Alex] Okafor was projected to be a really good football player and nobody even knew who Kenny Vaccaro was," he said. "Those are our three guys that will probably be drafted the highest [in the NFL.] Today isn't as important as what happens after today."



By Christian Corona
Sports Editor

The last time Texas signed a recruiting class this small was in 2005.

Current NFL players Colt McCoy, Jamaal Charles, Quan Cosby and Jermichael Finley were among the 15 players that signed with the Longhorns less than a month after they captured the program's fourth national title.

That was then, this is now. Texas isn't coming off a national title. It's coming off a 9-4 season, having lost 16 games over the past three years. And there's no McCoy in this year's 15-member recruiting class. The only quarterback in

the class, Tyrone Swoopes, completed just 42 percent of his passes for 1-9 Whitewright last year.

Five guys decommitted from Texas over the past eight months — exactly as many as committed to it during that span. But if you ask Longhorns head coach Mack Brown, his team is better off without them.

"I don't want anybody here that doesn't want to be here," Brown said. "If you're committed to us, be committed. If you look around, we'll look around ... You want people that want to be at your school. If someone backs out on you, you've got to look for somebody else. That's what happens in this world."

If you're searching for what's wrong with the Longhorns' recruiting philosophy, you don't have to look very long anymore. When Sealy receiver Ricky Seals-Jones, one of the nation's best wide-out prospects, decommitted from Texas in June, the Longhorns stopped going after him.

Texas A&M, which also picked up former Texas commit Daeshon Hall on Wednesday, ended up signing Seals-Jones.

"Texas is very, very picky," *rivals.com* national recruiting analyst Mike Farrell said. "They dropped Ricky Seals-Jones. They stopped recruiting him. In past years, that wouldn't be a concern. But now Texas A&M is the one in the Top 10 and Texas is outside of the Top 10 nationally I think that's something you wouldn't have seen a few years ago when Texas was a BCS title contender and things were going really good."

Texas has let far too many highly touted players slip through its fingers

FIGHT continues on page 9

SIDELINE

NBA



NCAAM



SPORTS BRIEFLY

Swimmer breaks NCAA event record

Senior Michael McBroom was named the NCAA record-holder in the 100-yard freestyle event this week by officials after his performance against Arizona and SMU last Friday at the Texas' Senior Day meet.

McBroom posted a time of 8:43.48 seconds in the event which bested the previous NCAA record of 8:44.11 seconds held by Chris Thompson of Michigan since 2011. He also broke the school record of 8:46.88 posted by Michael Klueh in 2008 at the NCAA National Championships.

"It's great to get the NCAA record," McBroom said. "I've trying to get faster and faster and see what I can do in the mile."

Kansas falls apart, loses to TCU by 7

The TCU Horned Frogs defeated No. 5 Kansas at home 62-55 Wednesday night. The Jayhawks shot 18-for-61 against the Horned Frogs and was 16-for-23 beyond the arc.

At the half, Kansas was down 22-13 to TCU, the worst team in the Big 12 and the lowest ranked major conference team. As a team, the Jayhawks shot 3-or-22 in the first half and was 0-for-4 for three-pointers. Kansas was scoreless for the first seven minutes of the game and only managed one field goal in the first 14 minutes.

Though the Jayhawks fought back and made it 19-27 at the start of the second half and brought the score to within four near the end of the game, they were never able to gain the lead over the Horned Frogs.

Prior to the game, Kansas held the longest active streak in the country for straight games without back-to-back losses at 264 games. Last week, the Oklahoma State Cowboys defeated the Jayhawks 85-80 in Kansas.

—Sara Beth Purdy

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | IOWA STATE 67 - TEXAS 48



Shelby Tauber | Daily Texan Staff

Junior Chassidy Fussell dribbles against Iowa State on Wednesday night at the Frank Erwin Center. After two straight Big 12 wins, the Longhorns struggled to score against the Cyclones. They dropped their eighth Big 12 game, 67-48.

Horns drop another to Iowa State

By Matt Warden

After 40 minutes, it's back to the drawing board for the Longhorns.

The women's basketball team saw its win streak come to an end on Wednesday night, falling 67-48 to the Iowa State Cyclones. Texas struggled shooting the basketball, finishing the game with a 37 percent field goal percentage compared to 49 percent for the Cyclones.

"I'm disappointed because I thought we would come out and play harder with more intensity," head coach Karen Aston said. "And rebounding. We shot 37 percent to their 49 but we still get out-rebounded, and that just is not acceptable effort."

Despite a solid start, including seven points from

freshman Empress Davenport, the Cyclones did exactly what was needed to keep the Longhorns at bay in the first half. Iowa State blanketed the Texas frontcourt, holding its stars Nneka Enemkpali and Imani McGee-Stafford to a combined five points on 2-11 shooting.

"Iowa State was just better than we were tonight, and in pretty much every area of the game," Aston said. "They were a better basketball team than we were. Disappointing, but credit to them. They were a better team than we were."

The Longhorns continued to struggle inside in the second-half, finishing the game with 31 rebounds, their second-lowest of the season. Iowa State also held Texas to 10 points in the paint, while tallying 20

inside for themselves.

"Their two post players are really strong so you have to give them credit," Enemkpali said. "Offensively, we were unable to really just bury them the way we buried TCU and Kansas State. Defensively, they buried us in what we should've been doing to them."

The Cyclones shot 41.7 percent from the three-point line in the contest, opening up opportunities for Anna Prins to bring her total to 19 points for the game. After two straight dominating performances from Texas post players, this loss will force it to reevaluate its game plan.

Although the Longhorns recorded 14 turnovers, which was their fewest game total all season, a lack of urgency plagued them when it counted. After being out-

“

I'm disappointed because I thought we would come out and play harder with more intensity.

— Head coach Karen Aston

rebounded and beat to the spot on defense more often than not, Aston is through playing the inexperience card.

"I can't continue to blame it on youth because these players that are playing right now have had a lot of minutes," Aston said. "We have got to understand the urgency of this league and we didn't look like we understood it tonight."

Davenport, Rodrigo lead Longhorns in loss

GAME BREAKDOWN

First Half: Texas was struck with turnovers and inconsistent play as it let Iowa State end the half with a 14-0 run and a first-half 39-24 in favor of the Cyclones. The Longhorns made only 33.3 percent from the floor while they let the Cyclones shoot 53.6 percent. Anna Prins, at 6-foot-7, led Iowa State with 14 points while freshman Empress Davenport led her squad with seven. The Longhorns also had a tough time controlling the parameter as they let Iowa State make 53.8 percent of their three-point shots.

Second Half: The Longhorns came out looking for a spark to get their third straight win. While they improved on both sides of the ball, the Cyclones were able to keep the young team at bay. Celina Rodrigo, coming off just two points in the first half, came out hot and finished the second half with eight more points. However, finishing with a 49.0 shooting percentage, the Cyclones ended the game with a 16-4 run to claim the victory.

STOCK UP

The duo of Davenport and Rodrigo: Davenport finished with 13 points on the night while Rodrigo had season-high 10 on the night. The pair, which averaged 35 minutes of playing time on the night, kept Texas alive in the first part of the second half as they made big shots.

STOCK DOWN

Nneka Enemkpali: Toward the middle of the first half, Enemkpali got tangled up with an Iowa State player and was slow to get up. After that, she seemed to move at half-pace and had trouble making shots. The sophomore, who is usually the points leader for the Longhorns, ended up with just six points and five rebounds.

BY THE NUMBERS

10: Texas was held to just 10 points in the paint. Enemkpali and Imani McGee-Stafford were held to just 11 combined points which shut out the Longhorns' main source of points down low.

20: In their nine wins this season, the Longhorns have held opponents to just 29 percent shooting from the floor. In Wednesday's game, Texas allowed 20 percent greater shooting, allowing 49 percent.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Longhorns now look to Saturday night when they will face No. 1 Baylor (21-1, 11-0 20-1, 10-0). This is the first game between Texas and the Bears since Baylor won the national championship last spring.

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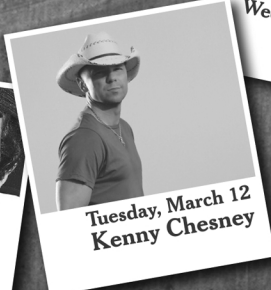
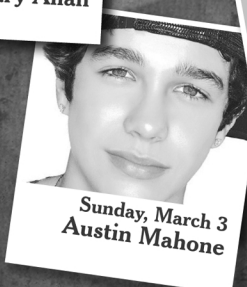
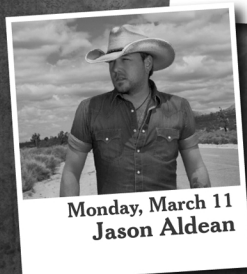
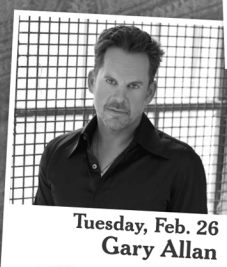
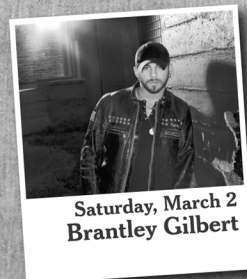
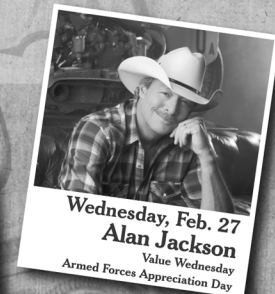
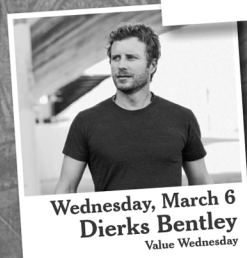
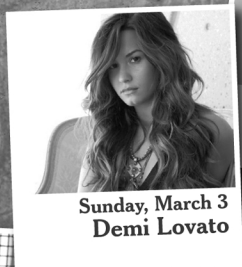
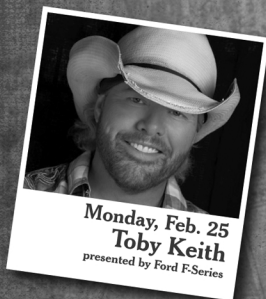
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SOFTBALL

Texas opens against Islanders in Texas Classic



By Jori Epstein

No. 7/9 Texas softball welcomes Texas A&M-Corpus Christi for its 17th season opener at 7 p.m. Thursday in Austin. The game commences the weekend Texas Classic tournament that also hosts North Texas and Memphis.

Boasting a 22-3 record against A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas won the last match-up 6-5 on Feb. 15, 2012. The Longhorns undefeated at 16-0 in season openers, with 10 shut-outs including last year's program-high 23 runs against Cal State Fullerton that propelled a 10-0 season start. Returning with strong prospects this year, Texas was ranked No. 7 in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division I Top 25 preseason poll, No. 9 in the ESPN.com/USA Softball preseason chart and No. 2 in the Big 12 Conference preseason poll. Last Friday, senior catcher Taylor Hoagland and senior pitcher Blaire Luna were named to the preseason watch list for 2013 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year.

TEXAS CLASSIC

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi @ Texas



Date: Thursday
Time: 7 p.m.
On air: LHN

“Blaire’s competitive, she’s got the experience, hungry and wants to go out on a high note,” head coach Connie Clark said of Luna, who enters her final season tied for career saves and second in nearly all other school records. “I don’t think she’ll be satisfied without that.”

Hoagland complements Luna in the senior class, anticipating third base and outfield appearances. With the Texas career records in home runs (44) and slugging percentage (.674), Hoagland joins senior Kim Bruins and junior Brejae Washington as team captains. Bruins will pitch with Luna and continue infield experience for which she posts a .985 fielding percentage in 105 games. Washington, leading the



Texas senior pitcher Blaire luna pitches against Blinn College last season. Luna is on the preseason watch list for the 2013 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year.

Texas records for career stolen bases (65), brings a confident batting strategy of bunting.

Junior catcher Mandy

Ogle returns as starting catcher after helping the pitching staff post a 2.40 ERA last season. Freshmen Taylor King and Erin

Shireman (No. 15 ESPNHS recruit) follow her behind the plate. Infield high prospects include Karina Scott, whose .995 career fielding

percentage will help her at first and second bases as well as junior Taylor Thom at shortstop following a 95-assist 2012 season.

MEN’S GOLF RECAP | JACOB MARTELLA

The Longhorns used six birdies over the final two holes to finish in third place in the first round of the Amer Ari Invitational on Wednesday in Kona, Hawaii. Birdies by senior Cody Gribble and juniors Toni Hakula and Brax McCarthy at the end of their rounds helped Texas finish with a 9-under 279.

Both Gribble and freshman Brandon Stone shot a 3-under 69, placing them

at a tie for 10th individually so far. Hakula finished one stroke behind them with a 2-under 70 and is tied for 14th.

Stone got off to a fast start to the tournament with a birdie on the second hole and an eagle on the fourth. His round after that point was quiet, tallying another birdie and an eagle.

Gribble, on the other hand, had a steadier round. After making par on the first

three holes, Gribble birdied the fourth hole before a bogey on the sixth. He birdied the ninth and the 17th and 18th to end his day.

TCU and UCLA finished the first round tied for the lead, each shooting an 11-under 277. TCU’s Daniel Jennevret’s 5-under 67 put him first individually.

Texas, the defending national champion, will begin its second round Thursday at 11:30 a.m.



Brandon Stone
Freshman

FIGHT *continues from page 7*

because of misplaced pride and a harmful desire to take only those who are dying to come to the 40 Acres.

It’s why Belton tight end Durham Smythe, a former high school teammate of David Ash, decommitted from the Longhorns and signed with Notre Dame. It’s why Arlington Martin running back Kyle Hicks decommitted from Texas for TCU. It’s why Fort Worth Arlington Heights

defensive tackle A’Shawn Robinson, a five-star prospect, according to *rivals.com*, decommitted from Texas and signed with Alabama on Wednesday, leaving the Longhorns without any defensive lineman in their 2013 recruiting class.

It’s why — if Brown doesn’t swallow his pride and start fighting for players that are “looking around” — it will be a while before Texas is nationally relevant again.

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By DAVID OUELLET

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REMEMBERING THE JUKEBOX

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D T K A Y S R C E H I C S T H
N S D C R E M S P T E E T S G
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PICK UP LONGHORN LIFE TOMORROW!

FAN

continues from page 12

The Fandom cast said that improv bonded them together in a way that everyday activities couldn't have.

While members of the cast have participated in many other improv shows, the improvisers agreed Fandom is both exceptionally different and tremendously enjoyable. While one improviser dressed as Mario and spoke with an Italian accent, another improviser wore pink tights and fainted to the ground as Princess Peach. Each transitioned from different characters with each new skit such as: Wario and Boo, Yoshi and Link and many others. Fandom improviser, Aaron Saenz, feels this is what makes Fandom special.

"I think you spend your whole life wanting to be these characters, and in the show, you actually get to be these characters," Saenz said.

After intermission, the Fandom cast offered three different story ideas for a skit that would last the entire second half. The audience members picked the third option presented to them — "Who killed Princess Peach?". Unfolding in a hilariously shocking way, even Crouch joined in as well, assisting in the murder mystery.

"This is the first time this show has ever been done. We got inspired because we want to create shows that are thrilling for audiences," Crouch said. "We wanted something that was using those loved characters and getting as much audience feedback and participation as possible."

The Fandom show will

“

One of the best things about this show specifically, is with the way it's structured. We have no idea what's going to happen.

— Mark Majcher,
Member of Fandom improvisers

be improvised live Feb. 9, 16 and 23 at 8 p.m., with the respective themes: "Star Wars," "Harry Potter" and audience choice for the last week.

ALIENS

continues from page 12

And, while it's hard for most of us to imagine that we are truly alone in the universe, hope may be blinding us. In the book "Rare Earth," authors Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee play devil's advocate, noting that, yes, the universe is very big, but there are very few places where life can actually inhabit it. In our solar system, for example, there's only one small planet in the Goldilocks zone (not too hot, not too cold).

Also, even if life exists elsewhere, it needs to be smart enough to contact us or receive our signals. Intelligence is by no means guaranteed by natural selection. Humans have occupied the Earth for less than a percent of a percent of the planet's lifetime and have only had the technology to send messages to other worlds for the past hundred years or so.

With the way we are running things, many question how much longer we'll be around.

The biggest problem with estimating the probabilities of extra-terrestrial contact is that we're making predictions using a sample size of one. We know that intelligence can evolve, but we have no clue if Earthlings are slow at it or if it was a complete fluke that our brains got so big in the first place. We understand one kind of life, but we don't know how specific the requirements may be for others — are our requirements for living (oxygen, temperate climate) universal, or specific to humans?

Life can be very resilient: 30 years ago, we found species of bacteria in conditions we didn't think could sustain life (temperatures as high as 250 degrees, for example, or very acidic environments). These "extremophiles" didn't just

survive in these environments — they thrived — maybe our ideas of inhabitable environments are too limited.

Bacterial life isn't the same as human life, however, and it's unclear as to whether the observations we make about extremophiles could scale up to something as advanced as a human. Even if they can't, intelligent beings still have a whole lot of space to potentially exist in, even considering how uninhabitable most of the universe is. There are more stars out there than there are grains of sand on Earth: with those kinds of numbers it seems almost impossible for us to be truly unique. But until we receive a signal, we can't know for sure.

In the meantime, all we can do is impatiently sit by the phone, imagine other life-forms out there and wonder what's taking them so long to return our call.

GAME REVIEW | 'DEAD SPACE 3'



Isaac Clarke fights off an attack from a Necromorph, an alien-human hybrid that makes a point of impaling its victims.

Photo courtesy of Visceral Games

Game appeals to mass audience

By Stuart Railey

Electronic Art's "Dead Space 3" hit the shelves this Tuesday, giving players the fear-induced heart palpitations the series is known for. Although some minor details detract from the overall quality of the game, "Dead Space 3" is a highly enjoyable conclusion to the trilogy that will satiate casual gamers and rabid fans alike.

For those new to the series, jumping into the third installment of "Dead Space 3" might be as disorienting as navigating a zombie-infested spaceship without a flashlight. The storyline picks up quickly from where it left off in the last game, so it may behoove players to run through the last two games or at least read a plot summary beforehand.

Nonetheless, gamers will return to the familiar role of Isaac Clarke, a spaceship engineer coping with the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder — sci-fi horror edition. With the human race in shambles and the Unitologists, a group of religious fanatics, bent on turning everyone into bloodthirsty Necromorphs (an alien-human corpse hybrid), Isaac and his team will head to the only place that can end the outbreak of chaos once and for all — planet Tau Volantis.

With or without a thorough understanding of the story, players will still find "Dead Space 3" entertaining. Gameplay centers around the use of improvised mining tools to hack, dismember, impale, explode and burn through waves of different Necromorph enemies. Weapons, as in previous iterations of the game, can be upgraded at designated kiosks and crafted to

become more lethal purveyors of gore. Navigating the upgrade menus is now more efficient, making it easy to quickly enhance a weapon attachment or Isaac's combat suit.

Even on the easiest difficulty, enemies are sufficiently challenging, and gameplay can last anywhere from 12 to 15 hours. "Dead Space 3" is also one of the few games that actually nails interactive cutscenes, causing cinematic sequences to be more immersive without becoming needlessly complicated or frustrating. Mashing a button or pushing forward to guide Isaac on perilous descents, last-minute escapes or atmosphere entry is always epic and engaging.

In terms of graphics, "Dead Space 3" is one of the most beautifully rendered games available for the current generation of gaming consoles. With the "Havok" graphics engine, the ice-encrusted planet of Tau Volantis adds a dynamic new setting to the series, lined with crisp textures and immensely detailed landscapes. Slicing off Necromorph limbs has never looked better in high definition. And despite the continuous flow of graphically-intense environments, the frame rate is a steady 60 frames per second at all times. Unfortunately, Xbox 360 owners will still have to split the game between two discs like in "Dead Space 2", but this does not cause any major disruption of the story.

Of course, "Dead Space 3" is by no means free of error. The biggest gripe that players will have with the game is Isaac's status as an engineer. When the game developers refer to Isaac as an "engineer," they mean it. Broken



DEAD SPACE 3

Price: \$59.99
Developer: Visceral Games Studio

doors, dismantled power generators and jammed pistons; Isaac stops just short of fixing the plumbing along the way to saving humanity. Presented in the format of puzzles, these "fixes" can either make for an amusing couple of minutes or an aggravating half-hour of backtracking. After dozens upon dozens of these missions, puzzles seem more like an overused gimmick than a creative component of the game.

Although "Dead Space 3" has no loading screens, the elevators, ladders, and transport systems disrupt the pacing of the game and compensate for the lost tedium that loading screens once provided. Similarly, scrounging for spare parts and upgrades adds fillers to the gaming experience because there's no real reward for exploring, other than ammo and health.

While "Dead Space 3" has a handful of noticeable drawbacks to its gameplay, the quality of the storytelling and seamless action will stifle the complaints of more critical fans and attract newcomers to the series.

SLAM

continues from page 12

better person. It helps me understand myself."

Spitshine requires no membership fees and hosts free open mics to encourage accessibility for everyone. But travelling to New York can be costly, so they started an online charity drive at Indiegogo.com to

raise \$4,000, which would cover airfare, a week at a hotel, registration, transportation and food.

They'll also be hosting a number of fundraiser poetry slams in places other than Austin as well, such as Killeen and College Station. There will be one in Austin on March 5 at the 29th Street Ballroom.

There's a lot at stake for the poets. CUPSI will be the first national coaching

experience by Caballero and Brown, and the first national competition by Ward, Allred, Gayo and Flores. In this strange intersection of improvisation, acting and writing, poets are asked to lay their hearts in the open to be judged by total strangers.

"It's so easy to get sucked into," Caballero said. I know I'll be doing this for the rest of my life, until my hands fall off because self-expression will never die."

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Alien invasion unlikely until E.T. phones home



As you read this, two Voyager spacecrafts are traveling through the darkness of space at nearly twenty times the speed of the fastest airplane ever built. On board, they each contain a golden record. These records contain pictures of our home planet, greetings in many languages, the sound of a mother kissing her child and music from all over the world.

The idea is that one day these spacecrafts will come in contact with another civilization that can learn about us through these records.

Nobody expects this to happen anytime soon.

Even at the extraordinary speeds that they're traveling, the two spacecrafts couldn't make it to our closest solar neighbor, Proxima Centauri, in less than 70,000 years.

But neither one is actually going in that direction.

So this is probably not the best option, at least for discovering aliens during our lifetimes. Or our children's. Or their children's. Or possibly any hompien's. We do have other methods for potentially establishing first contact, however.

The strongest effort comes from the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute, which scans the skies using radio telescopes in the hopes of detecting alien signals. So far, they haven't found anything suggestive of life.



Illustration by Anik Bhattacharya | Daily Texan Staff

But, before we throw in the towel, let's keep in mind there's still plenty of universe where we haven't looked.

The truth is that we don't have any idea of how

worthwhile the SETI effort is. In 1961, the astronomer Dr. Frank Drake came up with a formula that should predict the number of detectable alien civilizations.

Unfortunately, we still don't have definite data for many of the formula's parameters, so its estimations vary wildly.

ALIENS continues on page 10



ART

Zachary Caballero and Arianna Brown (front row) are the coaches for Spitshine Poetry's team that will be traveling to New York this April to compete in the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI). The team has been practicing three times a week in order to prepare group poems they will present at CUPSI.



Chelsea Purgahn
Daily Texan Staff

Spitshine Poetry group snaps into gear, readies for national slam competition

By **Shane Arthur Miller**

Slam Poetry is the art of bringing written words, pauses and all, to dramatic performance. A slam poet aims to evoke emotion through only the power of their words and the rhythm of their voice. In a slam poetry competition, poets recite original works in multiple rounds, often in dramatic ways. Random members of the audience are asked to act as judges and give numerical scores based on their opinions.

Though Spitshine Poetry has only been around for a year and a half, the group is sending a competitive team of four — advertising junior Robyn Ward, radio-television-film and English senior Elijah Allred, mathematics freshman Loyce Gayo and international relations and global studies freshman Joseph Flores — to New York

this April to participate in the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational.

A surprising amount of preparation goes into a slam competition. In addition to writing, memorization and rehearsal are both key factors in the outcome of a poetry slam round. The Spitshine team has been practicing together three times a week for hours on end. But because CUPSI is team-based, it introduces a whole new dynamic of teamwork and encourages performances of group poems.

History and English junior Zachary Caballero and sophomore English and Plan I honors major Ariana Brown founded the group in November 2011 to form a community of writers on campus. Comprised of about 25 members, Spitshine is not limited to slam poetry but also offers workshops and creative feedback for any medium of fiction.

Caballero has been “slamming” since he was 13 and reached the national level at the age of 18. This year, though, Caballero and Brown will not be competing on stage with their teammates at CUPSI.

“I want to be behind the scenes this time around and experience the activity from a different perspective,” Caballero said.

Because Spitshine performs slam poetry as a team, Caballero said that he formed the group to create a community among writers.

“Our goal is to slowly and methodically push writers outside of their comfort zone — outside of their journal or their room,” Caballero said. “We’re all alike. Everyone’s been on the same journey, and it all starts at that one moment where we realize ‘Wow, I have a lot to say, I better write this down.’”

This year, four new poets

will have the opportunity to move outside of their comfort zones and slam at the national level.

Allred joined last semester and has been slamming for around six months.

“I started writing plays and stories when I was six or seven,” Allred said, “Now I do slam poetry for the same reason you set a trash can on fire and kick it over — to express yourself and get attention.”

But transitioning poetry to the stage does not come easily for everyone. Ward, another relatively new member, has learned to enjoy slam poetry through Spitshine.

“My first slam was really scary, I was standing in front of all these strangers and was choking at first,” Ward said. “But I feel like it’s made me a better writer, more confident and an all-around

SLAM continues on page 10

THEATER

Improv tackles fan favorites

By **Jourden Sander**

The cast of “Fandom” at the Hideout Theatre has been shape shifting into diverse, fictional worlds for the past five Saturdays. By becoming characters of popular culture, the Fandom cast performs an entirely different show every week. One week, the world was “Batman,” the next week was “Hunger Games” themed. There are no scripts and no plans — only improv.

“Fandom: Improvised Fan Fiction in your Favorite Worlds,” is performed in an intimate theater where the audience is extremely involved.

“Improv is unique as an art because it’s super immediate and audience interactive,” co-director Andy Crouch said. “So I think it can hit an audience in a way that theater doesn’t necessarily, because it’s scripted and has set things that have to happen.”

In the “Classic Nintendo” show, the improviser had to manage surprising twists to the skit at the yell of “Pause!” from any audience member, which would cause the improvisers to freeze and change their scene according to the audience member’s suggestion, no matter what it was.

“One of the best things about this show specifically, is with the way it’s structured. We have no idea what’s going to happen,” said Mark Majcher, one of the Fandom improvisers. “And that’s true of any improv, but this show specifically we are encouraged to completely break free and do whatever we feel will be the most fun and in the moment; because we have absolutely no idea what will go on next. It’s scary and super fun.”

During one segment of the show, a member of the audience was called to the stage to act as a princess on a dating show. “Where would you take me on our first date?” the princess asked, and three classic Nintendo characters answered her question with hilarious results.

Fandom improviser, Halyn Erickson, said the show has become more than just comedy for her fellow cast members.

“A beautiful thing about this show is that not only do we get to be these characters, in these worlds that we love so much, we get to be with like-minded nerds, and now we have this common thing we can all do together,” Erickson said.

FAN continues on page 10



Debby Garcia | Daily Texan Staff

Peter Rogers and March Majcher are improv troupe performers for the Fan Fiction Fandom Show, a series of audience interactive comedy shows at the Hideout Theatre.